



The GRANGE

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CHAIR'S REPORT

The Grange Annual Outing – April 29th – a very good day with reasonable weather which was a considerable relief to everyone since there had been a very bad storm the day before. Our first stop was the River Brink Museum to see the Samuel E. Weir Collection of art and rare books. Mr Weir, who was called to the bar in 1920 and was an avid and meticulous collector starting in his student days, amassed an extremely interesting collection of paintings, sculpture, books and furniture. He built the house which is now the museum in the 1960s.

Our next stop and a very important one was lunch. Then on to Niagara-on-the-Lake where we were met by Peter Stokes, the restoration architect of The Grange. Peter lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake and gave us a talk on St Mark's Church which dates from 1809 and still serves the Anglican community of Niagara. In its early history St Mark's had a colourful career. Used as a hospital in the war of 1812, then captured by the Americans who when they left, burned the structure, it was re-opened in 1829.

While in Niagara we visited the Niagara Historical Museum, another interesting collection started by a teacher Janet Carnochan. Her portrait hangs in the museum and I must say she looks to have been a rather formidable lady but perhaps her pupils did not think so. Ms Carnochan, who was a staunch United Empire Loyalist started the museum in 1895.

We were joined on the trip by Wanda Dubé, President of Gallery Volunteers. We were very pleased to have her with us and I believe she enjoyed the day. I was pleased that several of the newer Grange volunteers were among the group. Working, as most of The Grange volunteers do, on only one day a week, the opportunities to meet volunteers from other shifts is limited.

We did have a chance to get together at The Grange Annual General Meeting, May 13. About 35 Grangers attended. We were pleased to welcome Wanda Dubé, President of Gallery Volunteers and Diana Goliss from Staff and Volunteer Resources. Also present, The Grange Council members Scott James and Margaret Machell. Our speaker was Robert Brough, Heritage Architect and also member of The Grange Council. His subject was Eaton's College Street. And in particular the auditorium and The Round Room Restaurant. He showed pictures of both areas in their hey-day and rather sad pictures of the spaces as they are now. There are plans to restore these facilities both excellent examples of Art Deco design.

Many of us have memories of the store as it was. Margaret Machell, once custodian of The Grange and now a member of The Grange Council told me she used to lunch there regularly. Not in The Round Room, of course but in a basement restaurant where a 3 course lunch could be had for 25 cents! That was soup, main course and pie. The diner could have ice cream on the pie but that was two cents extra. Margaret didn't tell me what year that was but she did mention that her salary at that time was \$50 per month! Our evening concluded with dinner, no soup though, nor pie-a-la-mode but a delicious chicken salad prepared by Jane Ash, outgoing Chair of Modern Kitchen and her helpers. Truly a fitting culmination to Jane's culinary career at The Grange.

Now we start a new season and new fiscal year. I hope everyone has a fabulous summer. - Avril Stringer, Chair



THANK YOU TO THE KITCHEN STAFF!

Prior to the Grange Annual Meeting and all of our Grange Volunteer Suppers, volunteers under the direction of Jane Ash get busy preparing a tasty meal for all to enjoy.

News of the Community:

Get Well Soon

Annie O'Brian (Thurs.)

Barbara Thamer (Thurs.)

Bev Sutton (Friday)

Welcome new Volunteers:

Monday

Carol Ammon (Carol offered to be where we needed her. Her experience in silver polishing at her church is a great help and after a bit of phone tag we stole her for Mons.!)

Wednesday

Angela Poulos (who is interested in learning how to make Grange bread and does make delicious sushi)

Melanie Milanich (also a M&G in the Gallery on Fridays)

Jarvis Stoddart (we'll teach him the Wed slinky equation)

Friday

Emily Tinkler (after being a vol. at The Mackenzie Printing House in Queenston, she now knows the other side of the story and how wonderful the Boultons were!)

Virginia Mladen (Virginia is another volunteer with whom we played phone tag before she joined us!)

Saturday

Shirley Bu & Kang Li Chen (both were students during March Break and decided to stay with us!)

Claire Whittingham (Claire knows a bit of Gaelic which should be useful with unruly students. It will confuse them into behaving!)

BORROWING LIBRARY BOOKS

- REMINDER -

A reminder to volunteers to check the "sign-out" book to see if you have a book that you've forgotten to return.

When signing out books please ensure that you have filled out the information completely. This includes your full name, phone number and catalogue number of the book. Please also make sure your Day Captain or the Library person co-signs as well.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

When I read the proposal for the anteroom exhibition I was confused. I always thought that room was used by William Boulton as an office when he was mayor. The French doors were there so people could visit him.

Confused

Dear Confused

I think we are all a bit confused by the anteroom. Part of the problem is not knowing when it was added. William was appointed mayor for the first time in 1846. There was a city hall, so likely he had an office there. His term was for 1 year, so it seems unlikely he would create a special office in The Grange--by the time it was built, his term would be close to over. With regards to the French doors, visiting, like many social aspects, had certain rules. It would not be appropriate for someone in the 19th century to just drop in.

Dear Editor

I notice that some volunteers do not wear their costume. What is the policy about this?

Dear Volunteer

New volunteers while in training are not costumed. Part of passing your assessment is getting gowned! We expect everyone who is trained to be in costume. When in costume, you are expected to have little or no make-up, no nail polish, no jewellery, wear stockings and shoes (not sandals) and a bonnet. But, if you are going out after your shift and have had your hair done and a manicure, it is better to wear civvies than to wear no bonnet and nail polish. In some, very few, cases, a volunteer does not feel comfortable in costume and an exception is made; however, we do prefer everyone to be properly costumed.

REMINDER

Please submit your news articles & letters to the editor for the next Grange newsletter by **Friday, August 23, 2002.**

The Grange Volunteer Executive 2002-2003

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Pauline Lee

MODERN KITCHEN

Helen Hatten

STAFFING

Catherine Stroud

DAY CAPTAINS

Monday: Jane Heinemann

Tuesday: Elvira Putrus

Wednesday: Cathy Stroud

Wednesday Bridge: Helvi Hunter

Wednesday Eve: Marg McGuigan

Thursday: June O'Brien

Friday: Beverley Sutton

Saturday: Ninette Gyorody

Sunday: Edna Rigby

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CURATORIAL CORNER

By now many of you will have seen the plan with the goals and objectives for the anteroom space just outside the library, but for those who have not, I will use this space to outline what we are hoping to achieve and to describe the project to those of our readers not familiar with the space.

The anteroom, which was once the office for The Grange and the last room on the west of the house between c. 1840 and 1885, is an odd part of the house as it seemingly serves no domestic purpose. Since the restoration it has been used as an exhibit space with several different, permanent didactic displays installed in cumbersome cases.

It is our intention that this space be redesigned, with better display cases, to have a long term cohesive exhibit installed. Visitor seating and a degree of interactivity with the displays, audio and share your reaction components.

There are several different objectives for this project:

1. To meet our established interpretive goals:
- To place The Grange in context with its site, for the visitor, by focusing on the estate and the growing city of Toronto (i.e. exploring the Boultons within the context of the neighbourhood and the city).
- Engage the visitor in explorations of the history and use of the building as a home and the early art museum
- To provide the visitor with a greater understanding of the

Odds and Ends - From the Research Committee

Excerpt from the diary of John Henry LeFroy – born 1817

As a cadet in The Royal Artillery he wrote in 1835 of a visit to the regiment by King William IV and Queen Adelaide. "Poor Queen Adelaide was dragged round on foot to see everything, and on getting near the Rotunda, being quite exhausted, she dropped down into a chance wheel-barrow she saw; and refused to move."

Henry LeFroy married Emily Robinson in April 1846. He wrote of her death: "My dear Emily had shown no signs of weakness or suffering during our autumn holiday, but she began to fail early in December, and on the 18th was so unwell that we put off a dinner party for the 23rd. She recovered, however sufficiently to take her place on Christmas Day; but on New Year's Day took to her bed, and never left it." She died January 29th 1859

From letters J.G. Brown in Upper Canada to his wife in England. (J.G. Brown came to Upper Canada to look for job. He was acquainted with members of the Boulton family both here and in England.)

Sept 16th 1829

"I mean next week, to start for a short time to the country at what is termed here the head of Lake Ontario, viz Niagara & Gore District & the Grand River where the Six Nations Indians are located. Since I wrote you last Capt Brant their chief has been staying in the same house with me & we became quite intimate – he is a fine young man about 35...his black hair is cut short & you would not know him from an English Officer who has served in India." "...he has quite an

people in the house

2. To encourage visitors to sit and reflect on the house, the park, and the inhabitants.

3. To provide a place where the visitor can learn more about the Boulton family and its relationship to the City, neighbourhood and AGO.

4. To provide an opportunity for the visitor to learn about the early history of the AGO

Initial Exhibition Proposal:

The story of The Grange divides itself neatly into different sections situated around the different family members who lived here. We intend to take these (D'Arcy Jr/Sarah Anne 1817-1846; William/Harriette 1846-1874; Goldwin/Harriette 1874-1910, AGO post 1911) as separate sections. In each section we will examine the world of the residents of The Grange, the art and cultural world of Toronto, and, the reality of the city and its relationship to The Grange. In this way, we hope that the visitor will come to see The Grange and the Art Gallery of Ontario within the context of 19th and early 20th century Toronto.

I am pleased with the comments and feedback I have received about the project. I would like to hear from you about what you think are the big events and stories we should include. If anyone would like to work on this exhibit with me, let me know. It will involve quite a bit of archival research - *By Jenny Rieger, Curatorial Assistant*

air of an Englishman of fashion. He speaks our language much more correctly than most of our own people & that without the slightest fault in pronunciation which would lead any person to suppose he was a foreigner..."

Mr Brown discusses travel accommodations.

"The Doctor (a neighbour of William Robinson & his wife) is a Scotchman very dry and amusing – he told me that I must not be surprised at some of the Houses if I find that Ladies of the family come and claim a share of my bed as he says that having occasion to sleep at a house that contained only one room he was surprised soon after he was in bed at the farmer's three daughters coming to share his bed with him and as the four were too much for the width of the bed he proposed and they acceded to the arrangement which he has suggested of their all lying across the bed in order to gain a little more room. Nothing so good as this as yet occurred to me but I find no difficulty of sleeping with a few others in the same room... In the States (America) they fill their beds at the Inns as full as they can cram and Mr DeRoos who has written his travels there says that he had known the gentlemen divest themselves of their garments to an unusual extent in order to make the best of the room which the bed afforded."

Henry Lefroy wrote of a similar problem in 1843. He wrote of staying at an inn in Cherry Valley, New York "... seeing that I was an Englishman he (the landlord) very good naturedly told me that I should not like to sleep with any of the other gentlemen...(so he)...made me a bed on the kitchen table" The table proved too short and the pillow kept slipping off causing his head to crack against the edge. He goes on to say, "...otherwise I was quite comfortable."

"Blue Pipkin" at Spadina Museum

The Story of an African North American Woman

We walked through the gates, buffeted by the wind gusting around the side of the house. Tiny flakes of snow were no match for it. A cold and getting-colder March day had brought us to Spadina Museum. Tiny crocuses had bloomed, mistaking the previous day's warmth and rain for early spring.

We had come to see the house and the African North American servant, Mrs. Pipkin, in honour of Black History month.

Spadina is a grand, stuffed-full Victorian/Edwardian mansion situated on top of a hill overlooking the city of Toronto. The site was chosen with care; the Austins wanted the superior view of land and lake, as the Baldwins had before them. They both chose the name "Spadina" which, in the Ojibwa language, means "hill".

We toured the house, examining each room and ending at the Blue Picture Gallery. As part of the Black History Month celebrations, the art of local black

artists was on display. The pictures were etched in charcoal and bright rich colours – beautiful work. This exhibit was inspired by contemporary art installations, including the Grange's *House Guests*.

We proceeded down to the basement to see Mrs. Pipkin in the laundry room, for the washing was what she did in the house. Mrs. Pipkin and her husband, the coachman, were former slaves who had come to Canada through the Underground Railroad. The Austins were forward-thinking people for their time and helped out a pair of former slaves in need of employment.

The actor, Dawn Roach Bowen, who also wrote the play, portrayed Mrs. Pipkin as a happy, positive thinking woman who worked hard and carried her learned knowledge into her everyday life and work. The use of lemon and soap to scrub out stains, and "indigo" blue to make white cloth whiter, thus the name "Blue Monday" for washing day. She used the indigo blue to reflect on her knowledge of her African heritage; how indigo was grown and harvested in Nigeria to make the brightly coloured cloth the like of the bandanna she wore on her head.



Wednesday Evening Volunteers who visited the Spadina performance of "Blue Pipkin" are shown from left to right: Linda Tyrrell, Marg McGuigan, Dawn Roach Bowen (Mrs. Pipkin), Andrea Bermudez, Pat Ward and Soraiya Husain.

Mrs. Pipkin, her slave name, was awaiting the arrival of her daughter, who had been sold. She was forced to leave her behind to her regret. When a letter arrives instead, she fears the worst and flings it to the floor, throwing herself after it. She finally takes up her courage and reads the letter; it is to find that she is a grandmother. The

new mother and baby girl have stopped in Windsor to rest. They are safe and free. Mrs. Pipkin is overjoyed. Ms. Bowen ends the performance as Mrs. Pipkin poses for Miss Susie Austin to paint her portrait. She played Mrs. Pipkin with much joy and dignified sympathy. After the little play had ended, she posed with us for a photograph. Linda had thoughtfully brought her camera. We left the grounds of the house on the hill as we had come, through the iron gateway, past the little crocuses shivering in the wintry wind.

By Pat Ward, Wednesday Evening Volunteer